

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing a graphical depiction of events, comprising:

providing a plurality of images to a user for selection;

receiving from said user a selection of a first image;

receiving from said user a selection of a second image; and

5 displaying said first and second images, wherein said first and second images are juxtaposed along a path to form said graphical depiction of events.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing a plurality of paths to said user for selection; and

receiving from said user a selection of one of said paths, wherein said first and second images are juxtaposed along said selected path to form said graphical depiction of events.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving from a user a textual description of a first event with said first image;

associating said first image with said textual description of said first event;

receiving from a user a textual description of a second event;

5 associating said second image with said textual description of said second event;

displaying said textual description of said first event and said associated first image; and

displaying said textual description of said second event and said associated second image, wherein said textual description of said first event and said associated first image and said textual description of said second event and said associated second image are linearly juxtaposed along a path to form said graphical depiction of events.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving from said user a selection of a first theme for said graphical depiction of events, wherein said first image is selected from a first set of images, and wherein said first set of images includes images corresponding to said selected theme.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said first theme is selected from at least one of achievements, future, growing up, interests, hobbies, marriage, anniversary, sports, athletics, babies, generic, high school, college, retirement, work, career, and life change themes.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing said graphical depiction of events as a graphic file.

7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising outputting said graphic file to a printer.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein an unlimited number of copies of said graphic file can be outputted to said printer.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said textual descriptions and associated images of said graphical depiction of events may not be revised by said user after a final version of said graphical depiction of events has been purchased by said user.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said graphical depiction of events is stored on a server as a file comprising a template, at least a first reference to said first image and at least a second reference to said second image.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said at least a first reference to said first image and said at least a second reference to said second image comprise universal resource locators.

12. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:  
receiving from said user a textual description of a third event;  
receiving from said user a selection of a third image;  
associating said third image with said textual description of said third event,

5 wherein said first event and said associated first image and said second event and said associated second image are positioned along a first branch of said path, wherein said

third event is positioned along a second branch of said path, and wherein said first and second branches of said path are parallel to one another.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein said path is displayed as at least one of a road, railroad tracks, a river, a sidewalk and a foot path.

14. A method for providing a graphical depiction of events, comprising:  
providing a theme selector input on a display screen;  
providing an image selector input on said display screen, wherein images for  
selection correspond to a selected theme;

5 providing a text receiving input, wherein text may be provided by a user; and  
displaying a selected image and provided text along a path, wherein a plurality of  
selected images and provided text are positioned along said path.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising:  
providing a path selector input on a display screen, wherein said path may be  
selected by a user, and wherein said plurality of selected images and provided text are  
positioned along said selected path.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein said theme is selected from at least one  
of achievements, future, growing up, interests, hobbies, marriage, anniversary, sports,  
athletics, babies, generic, high school, college, retirement, work, career, and life change  
themes.

17. The method of Claim 15, wherein said path comprises at least one of a  
railway, a river, a sidewalk and a foot path.

18. A system for providing a graphical depiction of events, said system comprising:

a) a client computer under control of a user comprising:

5 i) a processor;

ii) a user display; and

iii) a network interconnection.

b) a communication network interconnected to said network interconnection of said client computer;

c) a server computer, comprising:

10 i) a processor;

ii) a network interconnection interconnected to said communication network, wherein said server computer is in communication with said client computer;

iii) data storage, wherein data on said data storage comprises:

15 1) a plurality of background templates; and

2) a plurality of graphical images;

iv) a server executable program, wherein said server executable program is operable to provide said client computer with information for display on said user display comprising:

20 1) a first menu for selection of a one of said plurality of background templates, wherein said background templates each comprise a path, and wherein at least a one of said background templates provides a plurality of locations at which an image can be positioned;

2) a second menu for selection of a one of a plurality of event themes; and

25 3) a third menu for selection of a one of a plurality of images associated with said selected one of said plurality of event themes;

wherein a user can construct a graphical depiction of events by selecting a one of said plurality of locations on said at least one background template providing a plurality of locations by making a selection from said second menu of an event theme and by  
30 making a selection from said third menu after making said selection from said second menu.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein said client computer further comprises a printer, wherein a hard copy of said graphical depiction of events may be produced by said printer.

20. The system of Claim 18, wherein said client computer further comprises a storage device, wherein said graphical depiction of events may be stored as a graphic file.

21. The system of Claim 18, wherein said background path comprises at least one of a railway, a river, a sidewalk, and a foot path.

22. A method of providing a story map using a server computer, comprising:

a) providing a server computer, comprising:

i) a processor;

ii) a network interface;

5           iii) at least a first storage device;

b) interconnecting said server computer to a computer network, wherein said server may be placed in communication with a client computer;

c) storing a plurality of images on said at least a first storage device;

d) storing a plurality of report templates on said at least a first storage device,

10           wherein said plurality of report templates comprise:

i) a plurality of background templates, wherein at least a one of said plurality of background templates comprises a graphical depiction of a path, a plurality of positions at which a selected one of said plurality of images may be placed, and a plurality of positions at which specified text can be placed;

15           ii) a plurality of themes, wherein a plurality of images are associated with at least a one of said plurality of themes;

e) in response to receiving a selection of a one of said plurality of background templates, providing to said network interface information required to display said selected background template;

20           f) in response to receiving a selection of a one of said plurality of themes, providing to said network interface information required to display a plurality of images associated with said selected background template; and



g) in response to receiving a selection of a one of said plurality of images,  
positioning said selected image at a one of said plurality of positions, wherein a story map  
is created.

23. The method of Claim 22, wherein said information required to display said plurality of images associated with said selected background template comprises information required to display said images at a first resolution.

24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising providing to said network interface information required to display said story map, wherein said information comprises information required to display said selected image at a second resolution, and wherein said second resolution is greater than said first resolution.

25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising, in response to receiving payment for said story map from a user interconnected to said network interface of said server by a computer network, providing information required to display said story map to said network interface, wherein said information comprises information required to display said story map at a third resolution, and wherein said third resolution is greater than said second resolution.

26. The method of Claim 22, wherein said server computer does not provide an executable file to said client computer.

27. A server computer apparatus for providing a graphical depiction of events in response to user selections, comprising:

a processor;

a network interface; and

5 a storage device, wherein a plurality of background templates and a plurality of images are stored, wherein in response to a selection of a one of said plurality of background templates a plurality of image positions are made available for editing, and wherein a selected image may be associated with each of said image positions.

28. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said first set of graphical images corresponds to a first selected theme.

29. The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein said first selected theme is selected from at least one of achievements, future, growing up, interests, hobbies, marriage, anniversary, sports, athletics, babies, generic, high school, college, retirement, work, career, and life change themes.

30. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein a second set of graphical images is received at said network interface and placed in at least one of said memory and said storage, and wherein said second set of images corresponds to a second selected theme.